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3 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 3 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea today, 3 June 1998, in Asmara on a military attack on my country, Eritrea, by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Haile MENKERIOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-15468 (E) 030698

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Annex

PRESS RELEASE

Ethiopian troops unleash attack against Eritrea

The Ethiopian army has today, 3 June 1998, unleashed an attack on Eritrean positions in the Ambesete Geleba (southern Eritrea) area. The attack, which was carried out by Ethiopian troops who have already been occupying Eritrean territory, was launched at 5.30 a.m. The Ethiopian army has employed tanks and heavy artillery in the attack.

This attack represents a new and dangerous escalation of the crisis between Eritrea and Ethiopia. The Ethiopian army had launched four attacks inside Eritrea over the past few days; on 22, 23 and 25 May in the Setit area; and, on 31 May, in the Alga-Aliteina areas.

The Government of Eritrea had protested to the facilitators about these dangerous attacks, underlining that this can only impede the facilitation process under way and provoke a larger confrontation. In the same vein, the Government of Eritrea has consistently refrained from publicizing these aggressive attacks in the past even while the Ethiopian Government was boasting about the losses it had "inflicted" on the Eritrean army.

The Government of Eritrea condemns Ethiopia's repetitive acts of aggression. And while affirming its legitimate right of self-defence, it again reiterates its firm conviction that the current crisis can only be resolved by peaceful and legal means. In this context, the Government of Eritrea reiterates its calls for the total demilitarization of the border areas between Eritrea and Ethiopia; the failure of which can only trigger similar and even more grave confrontations with the attendant and unnecessary loss to life and property. Unfortunately, the Ethiopian Government persists in its intransigent position of launching a full-scale war unless Eritrea "withdraws unconditionally" from territories that are indisputably Eritrean.

The Government of Eritrea also calls upon the Government of Ethiopia to respect Eritrea's recognized international boundaries and withdraw its army from the areas that it has occupied. The Government of Eritrea further calls on the international community to denounce Ethiopia's acts of aggression in contravention of the Charters of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, and to take measures to avert a further aggravation of the current crisis.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 61
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 3 June 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to previous letters, the latest being dated 2 May 1998, I have the honour to bring to your attention the following developments regarding the ongoing destruction of the religious and cultural identity of the occupied part of Cyprus.

Although the policy of the Government of Cyprus is to protect and maintain all cultural, historical and religious monuments in Cyprus, this policy is unfortunately not adhered to in the illegally occupied areas controlled by Turkish troops, where my Government has no control.

The latest violations are:

1. The Church of Panagia Evangelistria in the occupied village of Gerolakkos, which has been converted into a mosque;

2. The Church of Agios Mamas, also located in the occupied village of Gerolakkos, which has been converted into a cultural centre;

3. The Church of Profitis Zacharias in the occupied village of Pano Dikomon, which has been converted into a mosque.

As stated in previous letters, the repeated illegal conversions are in violation of the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the Declaration of the Principles of International Cultural Cooperation adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO. It should be reiterated that these acts of destruction are being promoted by Turkey in keeping with its policies and long-term expansionist plans against Cyprus. Moreover it is a further example of Turkey's complete disrespect for other

people's cultural heritage and the religious intolerance practised by that country. Turkey disregards all relevant international agreements, violates fundamental principles of civilization and desecrates what is sacred and holy to the people of Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish once again to protest strongly against these wilful and calculated acts of destruction by Turkey which are taking place systematically as part of a deliberate plan to obliterate the island's religious, archaeological and historical heritage.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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LETTER DATED 3 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ZIMBABWE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In my capacity as the representative of the Current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, I have the honour to transmit herewith a press statement on the establishment of an International Panel of Eminent Personalities to Investigate the Genocide in Rwanda and the Surrounding Events.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Machivenyika Tobias MAPURANGA
Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe
Representative of the Current Chairman
of the Organization of African Unity

98-15520 (E) 030698

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Annex

Press statement on the establishment of an international panel of eminent personalities to investigate the genocide in Rwanda and the surrounding events issued on 3 June 1998

The Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, after consultation with the current Chairman of OAU, President Robert Gabriel Mugabe, today announced the composition of the International Panel of Eminent Personalities, to investigate the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and the surrounding events. The Chairman of the Panel is Sir Ketumile Masire, the former President of the Republic of Botswana.

Other members of the Panel are:

General Amadou Toumani Touré, former Head of State of Mali;

Judge Mohamed Bedjaoui of Algeria, former Minister of Justice, former Ambassador to France, former Permanent Representative to the United Nations, former President of the International Court of Justice, currently serving as a Judge of the Court at The Hague;

Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, former Government Minister and former Assistant Administrator and Executive Director, Regional Bureau for Africa of the United Nations Development Programme;

Ms. Lisbet Palme of Sweden and Chairperson of the Swedish Committee for UNICEF and expert on the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child as well as a member of the Eminent Persons Group for the United Nations study on the impact of armed conflict on children;

Justice Bagwati of India, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India;

Ambassador Steven Lewis of Canada, former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations and currently Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF.

The establishment of the Panel follows the proposal made by the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Ato Meles Zenawi, in November 1997 to the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution at its seventh ordinary session at ministerial level. The proposal was endorsed by the Central Organ and also, subsequently, by the OAU Council of Ministers at its sixty-seventh ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa in February 1998.

In announcing the composition of the Panel, the Secretary-General indicated that the investigation would address, among other things, issues such as the root causes of the genocide Rwanda, the circumstances in which that genocide took place and its consequences in Rwanda and the Great Lakes region, including the roles of States and non-State actors before, during and after the genocide.

The Secretary-General underscored the fact that the Panel will be guided in its work by all the relevant international and OAU conventions, as well as legal instruments, including, in particular, the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The Panel will also be guided in its work by the relevant declarations adopted by the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

The Secretary-General also announced the establishment of a Special Trust Fund, to support the work of the Panel and ensure its independence. In this regard, he appealed to OAU member States and the rest of the international community to contribute generously to the Special Trust Fund.

In order to facilitate the work of the Panel and provide expert advisory services to it, a Panel Support Group made up of experts and advisors from a multidisciplinary background with the requisite knowledge and experience of the region is also being set up.

The Panel, which is to be inaugurated in September 1998, is to have is secretariat at Addis Ababa.

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LETTER DATED 3 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea dated 27 May 1998 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) LI Hyong Chol
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-15532 (E) 040698

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Annex

Statement by the Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 27 May 1998

Japan's current legislative arrangements related to the "Japan-U.S. Defence Cooperation Guidelines" seeking its overseas expansion under the manipulation of the United States have been arousing deep concern and indignation within and without.

As was already reported, the Japanese Government discussed bills some time ago for the implementation of the final report on the new "guidelines" at a cabinet meeting and submitted them to the Diet. They are "Bill on emergency areas surrounding Japan", "Amendment to the Law on Japanese Self-Defence Forces (SDF)" and "Amendment to the agreement on supply of materials and manpower between Japan and the United States".

The bills submitted by Japan to the Diet put not only the Korean Peninsula and Taiwan, but also extensive areas of Asia and the West Pacific region, within the scope of "emergency in areas surrounding Japan", which has drawn a widespread discussion in Japan.

The facts show again that Japan has chosen the Korean Peninsula as the first target of its overseas aggression and has invariably sought to dominate the whole of Asia by military force with the Korean Peninsula as a springboard, pursuing its unchanged ambition for aggression.

In the bills, Japan indefinitely expands the sphere of logistic support of the "SDF" and the scope of supplies for the United States military operations and codifies the right to dispatch warships and warplanes overseas and allow the "SDF" to use weapons outside Japan under the pretext of "rescuing Japanese". This means that Japan has provided legal conditions for expanding the scope of military operations of the "SDF" and allowing its participation in United States military action.

If these bills are passed through the Diet, they will legalize overseas troop dispatch of the "SDF" and its military action.

It is not incidental at all that the recent game of passing bills related to the "Japan-U.S. Defence Cooperation Guidelines" in Japan coincides with the racket of extorting its sinful past and extolling ultra nationalism and expansionism.

Some time ago, a film praising as "hero" Tojo Hideki, the infamous head criminal of the Second World War in Japan, was manufactured and shown openly, despite strong protest from within and without. Here lies, in fact, the ulterior intention of the Japanese authorities to embellish the past history of aggression and to create an atmosphere to justify their militaristic policy.

All facts clearly testify that the extremely dangerous and reckless attempts of the Japanese reactionaries to create a powerful military state have already entered a full-scale drive at execution stage.

These brazen-faced manoeuvres of Japan now arouse the unanimous condemnation and indignation of the Asian people, including the Korean people, and invite strong denunciation by the world's people.

We will never remain a passive onlooker to the war preparations which the Japanese rulers have accelerated against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, persistently pursuing a hostile policy towards Korea.

The present reality is eloquent testimony to the justness and far-sighted wisdom of the idea of attaching importance to the military affairs and self-defensive military line of our Party, which has strengthened the country's national defence power in an all-round way and consolidated it into impregnable one.

If Japan encroaches upon our sovereignty even a little bit with the backing of the United States, it can never retrieve itself from defeat. The reactionary rulers of Japan must give up the anachronistic design of overseas military expansion and act with prudence.

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Fifty-second session
Agenda items 64 and 81
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 2 June 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the statement of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines dated 25 May 1998 on the recent nuclear tests conducted by India.

The statement was issued by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs in his position as the current Chairman of the Association of South-East Asian Nations Regional Forum.

I should be grateful if you would have the present statement issued as a document of the General Assembly, under items 64 and 81, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Felipe MABILANGAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-15630 (E) 050698

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Annex

Statement of the Chairman of the Association of South-East Asian Nations Regional Forum on nuclear tests

The Association of South-East Asian Nations Regional Forum is the only existing government-level entity for the discussion of political and security issues in the Asia-Pacific region. The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), consisting of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, has been the primary driving force of the ASEAN Regional Forum. The other participants include the 10 dialogue partners of ASEAN (United States of America, Japan, China, Russia, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, European Union and India) and Cambodia and Papua New Guinea. The Philippines is the current Chairman of the Regional Forum.

As early as 1995, the ASEAN Regional Forum put emphasis on the importance of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in promoting regional peace and security. The Forum subsequently welcomed the overwhelming adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 1996 as an important step in prohibiting nuclear test explosions. At the same time, the ASEAN Regional Forum stressed its determination to continue to contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects. It was, therefore, a source of disappointment and grave concern to the Forum that these decisions and statements were completely disregarded through the carrying-out of the five separate nuclear tests recently conducted by India.

We are equally disturbed and acutely concerned over the reported decision of Pakistan to conduct nuclear tests of its own in response to the nuclear explosions undertaken by India. These tests would doubtless trigger a nuclear arms race in South Asia and create instability not only in the subcontinent but also in other parts of the world. Any nuclear tests at this time violate the spirit of the non-proliferation regime and tear at the fabric of inter-State relations. It is also lamentable if such an exercise diverts scarce resources from the imperatives of economic and social developments.

In view of this, we call on the Government of Pakistan to desist from undertaking its planned nuclear tests and appeal to it to exercise maximum restraint.

We call for the total cessation of all nuclear tests and urge those nations that have not done so to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The creation of a nuclear-free world is the ideal legacy that we can leave to mankind as we move on to the next millennium.